




**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2766
PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

December 10, 2004

TO: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley
Auditor-Controller 

SUBJECT: **PROBATION JUVENILE HALLS QUALITY ASSURANCE UNIT (Board Agenda Item #16, November 23, 2004) and (Board Agenda Item #14, December 14, 2004)**

At the meeting of November 23, 2004, your Board directed the Auditor-Controller to determine the feasibility of creating a quality assurance unit for the Juvenile Hall Corrective Action Plan within the Auditor-Controller's Countywide Contract Monitoring Division.

In November 2002, the Department of Justice (DOJ) initiated an investigation of the three Juvenile Halls which are under the management of the Probation Department (Probation). At that time, DOJ made several recommendations which impacted Probation, Department of Mental Health, Department of Health Services and Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE). The impacted County departments, including LACOE, as well as County Counsel and the Chief Administrative Office (CAO) have been working together to develop strategies which would address correcting the deficiencies noted by DOJ.

On November 23, 2004, there was a recommendation for your Board to approve establishing a central monitoring unit to ensure departmental compliance with the implementation plans and included a quality assurance team to be under the direction of Probation. Since the Auditor-Controller has created a contract monitoring unit which has been successful in monitoring social services departments' contractors, your Board requested the Auditor-Controller to determine the feasibility of creating the quality assurance unit within the Auditor-Controller.

We have met with Probation and CAO management to discuss the County's action plan and have reviewed various documents and reports related to the DOJ recommendations. We have determined that the Auditor-Controller can effectively oversee the quality assurance unit and provide leadership to the monitoring process.

Over the next 30 days, we plan to meet with representatives from the Departments of Health Services, Mental Health, Probation, CAO, County Counsel and the Los Angeles County Office of Education to coordinate establishing the quality assurance unit within the Auditor-Controller's Contract Monitoring Division and report back to the Board by January 21, 2005.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff call Don Chadwick at (626) 293-1102.

JTM:MMO:DC

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Raymond G. Fortner, Jr., County Counsel
Thomas L. Garthwaite, Director, Department of Health Services
Marvin J. Southard, Director, Department of Mental Health
Paul Higa, Chief Deputy, Probation Department
Darline P. Robles, Superintendent, Los Angeles County Office of Education
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Public Information Office
Audit Committee